

who suffer from heart ailments and on the desperate need for these procedures in other countries.

Mr. President, I take special pride, along with the Wilson family, in recognizing the wonderful accomplishments of Dr. William Wilson. While he may no longer live in Norwich, he has never forgotten the lessons learned from this close-knit community. Dr. William Wilson is being honored for his noble efforts within the medical field by friends and neighbors who fondly remember the spirited young boy who grew up in Norwich and who are so proud of the caring healer he has become. I wish him much success as he continues to leave his mark on the medical community, and I congratulate him for being honored with this most deserved award.●

TRIBUTE TO CHAPLAIN (MG)
DONALD W. SHEA

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding military officer, Chaplain Donald W. Shea, upon his retirement from the Army after more than 33 years of dedicated service. Throughout his career, Chaplain Shea has served with distinction, and it is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments and to commend him for the superb service he has provided the United States Army and our nation.

Chaplain Shea's retirement on 30 June 1999 will bring to a close over three decades of dedicated service to the United States Army. Born and raised in Butte, Montana, Chaplain Shea attended Carroll College in Helena, Montana and graduated from The Saint Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1962 for the Diocese of Helena and commissioned as a U.S. Army chaplain and entered active duty in August 1966.

During his career Chaplain Shea has contributed to every available facet of religious ministry in our armed forces. Entering active duty during a very difficult period for our military and Nation, he provided the leadership and ministering that was invaluable to our forces in the Vietnam conflict. Following this conflict, during which he distinguished himself to seniors and peers alike, Chaplain Shea went on to serve in a variety of positions through his career. He was nominated on May 20, 1994 by President Clinton for promotion to Major General and following his Senate confirmation was appointed Chief of Army Chaplains on September 1, 1994.

As Chief of Chaplains he held the Army staff responsible for the religious, moral, and spiritual welfare for the total Army. He focused and advised the Army leadership in dealing with and resolving a number of difficult

issues facing today's force. Of note was his establishment of a Chaplain Recruiting Program within the US Army Recruiting Command to aggressively recruit the best-qualified candidates from all denominations, the successful relocation of the Army Chaplain Center and School from Fort Monmouth, NJ to Fort Jackson, SC and as President of the Armed Forces Chaplain Board, he shaped joint methodologies by which Service Chiefs of Chaplain and their staffs approached common issues.

Chaplain Shea has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with "V" device and two Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart, Vietnam Service Medal with six Campaign Stars, Vietnam Civil Actions Medal (First Class), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Medal (with "3" device), Senior Parachute Badge, Special Forces Tab, Bundeswehr Parachute Badge, and the Vietnamese Parachute Badge.

Chaplain Shea will retire from the Department of the Army June 30, 1999, after thirty-three years of dedicated service. On behalf of my colleagues I wish Chaplain Shea fair winds and following seas. Congratulations on an outstanding career.●

IN RECOGNITION OF JOE BEYRLER

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to recognize Joe Beyrle, a World War II veteran and long-time friend from Norton Shores, Michigan. Joe Beyrle's service during the war was truly extraordinary.

As an eighteen-year-old in 1942, Joe Beyrle enlisted in the Army, later volunteering for the parachute infantry. Joe quickly distinguished himself as a member of the 101st Airborne Division stationed in England. Early in his service Joe was twice chosen to make dangerous jumps into Nazi-occupied France while fitted with bandoliers filled with gold for the French Resistance. Joe's last jump into France was on the night before D-Day with the objective of destroying two wooden bridges behind Utah Beach. However, while on his way to accomplish this mission, Joe was captured by the Germans.

On June 10, 1944, the parents of Joe Beyrle received a letter from the United States Government informing them that their son had perished while serving his country in France. On September 17, 1944, family and friends held a funeral mass for Joe at St. Joseph's Church in Muskegon, Michigan. However, Joe was still alive and being held in a POW camp. A dead German soldier

wearing an American uniform and Joe's dog tags had been mistakenly identified as Joe.

Joe was eventually able to escape from his captors and later joined a Russian tank unit to continue the fight against the Germans. Joe fought with the Russians until an injury forced him to be sent to a Moscow hospital. When he finally regained his strength, Joe went to the American Embassy in Moscow and was eventually sent back to the United States. On September 14, 1946, almost two years after the funeral mass in his honor, Joe Beyrle married his wife, JoAnne, in the very same church.

I ask to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article which appeared recently in the Detroit Free Press regarding Joe Beyrle. The article highlights in greater detail the extraordinary experience of Joe Beyrle during World War II. I know my Senate Colleagues will join me in honoring Joe Beyrle on his tremendous sacrifice and service to our nation.

The article follows:

WORLD WAR II VET HOLDS ON TO A SPECIAL
APPRECIATION OF LIFE
(By Ron Dzwonkowski)

Memorial Day has to be a little strange for Joe Beyrle, even after all these years. He pays tribute to the nation's war dead knowing that, for a time, he was among them. Even had a funeral with full honors.

"Oh, what parents went through," says Beyrle, (pronounced buy early.) "My mother would never talk about it. My dad wouldn't at first. But I finally talked to him at some length. The emotions . . . well, it was quite a talk."

Beyrle, who will turn 76 this summer and lives in Norton Shores, south of Muskegon, was among the hundreds of thousands of young Americans who enlisted in the Armed Forces to fight World War II. A strapping 18-year-old, he passed up a scholarship to the University of Notre Dame and volunteered in June 1942 for what was then called the parachute infantry.

By September of '43, Beyrle was in England with the 101st Airborne Division.

His commanders must have seen something of the rough-and-ready in the young man from western Michigan, for Beyrle was twice chosen to parachute into Nazi-occupied France wearing bandoliers laden with gold for the French Resistance. After each jump, he had to hide for more than a week until he could be returned to his unit in England.

Then came D-Day. Beyrle's unit jumped into France on the night before the invasion, assigned to disrupt Nazi defenses for the huge frontal assault.

The going was rough. Beyrle saw several planes full of his comrades go down in flames before he hit the silk from 400 feet up, landing on the roof of a church. Under fire from the steeple, he slid down into a cemetery and set out for his demolition objective, two wooden bridges behind Utah Beach.

Beyrle never made it. He was on the loose for about 20 hours while the battle raged on the beaches, and he did manage to blow up a power station and some trucks, slash the tires on the other Nazi vehicles and lob some grenades into clusters of Hitler's finest. But then he crawled over a hedgerow, fell into a German machine gun nest and was captured.